

The BUZZ WORD

Volume
Issue 9
12
September 2021



**“And I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free....
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land! God bless the U.S.A. “**

Lyrics by Lee Greenwood

www.vvh.vermont.gov



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on ensuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.

VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.

For any Further Questions, Please Contact:

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson



Welcome to September:

Fall must be right around the corner as pumpkin spice everything is making its appearance in all the stores. With the increase in the positive cases at VVH and in the community, we have already begun talking about the holidays and having a backup plan in the event we, and the community at large, would experience a high COVID prevalence. As we get closer to events such as family attendance for holiday meals, our tree lighting, holiday parties, etc., we will let you know what our plans will be. Of course, these plans may change at a moment's notice due to COVID-19.

We are still awaiting word on how the COVID-19 vaccine booster will roll out and we will share that information with you once we have received it and developed our plan.

Also, it will most likely be the end of September before we know what the President and CMS mean by "mandatory" vaccination of healthcare workers in nursing homes. Again, when we receive this information we will share it with you.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the continued hard work of the VVH staff under the incredible pressure placed on them by COVID-19. They continue to advocate for your loved ones, coming up with ingenious ideas to ensure that your loved one can get outside, get out of their room, and have some interactions with others while ensuring they are maintaining social distancing. They also ensure the little things are done, favorite TV shows are on your loved one's television, making sure their favorite snack is available, or requesting food from a local restaurant as a treat. They are going above and beyond in these trying times.

Keep checking our website for updates and we will continue to send alerts as needed.

Take care, *Melissa*

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA

Chief Executive Officer

www.Vvh.vermont.gov

Just for Fun



Thinking about getting a job at the VVH?

As a fun activity, a mock interview was arranged for one of our Veterans.

The Veteran was really not interested in a job, he just wanted to shake things up a little at the Home.

Steve McClafferty, Director of Finance, conducted the interview in his office to give the activity a professional atmosphere.



***From the Deputy Administrator
Asa Morin***



It has been disheartening that we have had to cancel some activities planned due to the rise in Covid cases in our community and nationwide. In last month's Buzz, I talked about the The 75th Revival AAA Glidden Tour which is the oldest, most prestigious antique car tour in the country. We are working with the tour company in hopes that they will be able to provide a car parade in lieu of a full outdoor car show. We feel this would be safest option given the current covid situation.

On another topic, we are in the process of installing solar powered flameless lighters at the designated outdoor smoking areas. These will be available for the Veterans and members who do smoke to use rather than utilizing traditional lighters. With this in mind we ask that family members do not bring in lighters for your loved ones that smoke. When bringing in cigarettes, please continue to give them to staff rather than to your loved one directly.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge what a difficult time this is for everyone, especially for families who are not able to be here all the time with their loved ones. Thank you for entrusting us with their care. This is not something that we take lightly. Our staff are dedicated to providing the quality care that your loved ones deserve. Always feel free to reach out if you have a question, concern or just want to discuss your loved ones care. We are here for you.

Asa Morin, MSW, LICSW COO/Deputy Administrator (802) 447-6544 asa.morin@vermont.gov

Thank you to VVH's own Jon Endres, Director of Environmental Services, for donating the beautiful, custom built raised flower and vegetable beds put on North Village Courtyard.



Flu Season and Prevention Tips



Already we are getting ready for our annual flu campaign, hard to believe!

Please check your mail as acknowledgements will be sent out and please return the forms as soon as possible, as the flu vaccine generally is given in October. Remember; it takes **2 weeks** for the vaccine to start working.

The 2020-2021 influenza season was extremely quiet. From September 27, 2020 to May 15, 2021, was 0.2%, a rate substantially lower than the 17% average positively for the 3 previous seasons. Probably the low infection rate is the credit of a combination of social distancing, face masks and vaccinations.

A yearly flu vaccine is very safe and keeps us all healthier. You **CAN NOT** catch the flu from the vaccine as it is not a live virus. **Don't think of it as getting a flu shot– Think of it as installing virus protection software.**

Because of the continuing concerns regarding the Covid 19 Pandemic, it is again more important than ever to get the flu vaccine for everyone's well-being.

Here are some reminders what you can do to protect yourself, loved ones and all around you:

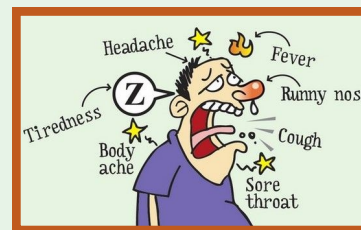
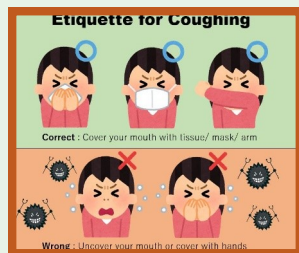
Hand washing is ALWAYS # 1 to protect yourself and others just to list a few:



1. When entering and exiting a resident's room
2. When entering VVH
3. When leaving VVH
4. Before meals
5. After using the restroom
6. Many other times too numerous to mention!!

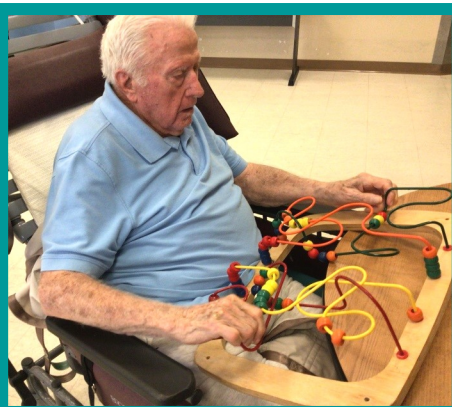
Coughing etiquette:

We want you to be healthy and prevent this:



**Thank you: call with questions 447-6467,
Patricia Babcock RN, IP**





**Always
Something
to do...**



Dog Day Afternoon



SEPTEMBER IS REHABILITATION AWARENESS!

Thank you to **Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Physical Therapy** for taking care of our Veterans and Members and making their lives better. Occupational Therapy is a profession that helps people across the lifespan to do the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of daily activities (occupations). Our therapy practitioners enable people of all ages to live life to its fullest by helping them promote health, and prevent—or live better with—injury, illness, or disability.



On behalf of the Veterans and Members,
we sincerely thank the following for their
generous donations:

District 1 VFW Dept. of VT
Hariclea & Stephen Kostka
Joel Whiting
Vietnam Veterans of America
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
Steve Leach
VFW Post #771—Springfield
American Legion Post #67—Chester
American Legion Riders Post #13
Ty Evans
Springfield Moose Lodge #679
Ballard Hobart American Legion Post #36
Springfield Elks Lodge #1560
Vermont Almanac— from Suzanne Opton
Betty Andrews
Gail Grote
Mrs. P. Mayer
William “Bill” Hartz

In Loving Memory of Diane Chaloux
Patrick Chaloux

In Loving Memory of Dave Brookman
Bonnie Hurley

In Loving Memory of Julia M. Dorsey
Robert Simon & Sandra Deak

In Loving Memory of Harold Smith
Frederick & Helene Deysenroth

In Loving Memory of Clyde Sanders
Kathy Dockum
Gary & Kaye Daigneault
Charles Becker
Don & Mary Cone
Mark & Peg Wilson
Ken & Elaine Coonradt
Sandra Lemieux
Tom & Sandy Fields

**How do you mend a
jack-o-lantern?**



With a
Pumpkin patch.

VVH Staff Recognition Years of Service

ACTIVITIES

Michele Burgess—45 years

ADMINISTRATION

Tonya Goodell—14 years

Robyn Boland—4 years

Kiauna Wait—2 years

CLEANING, HOUSEKEEPING, LAUNDRY

Terry Belville—33 years

NURSING

Tina Cole—33 years

Judy Ann Baker—24 years

Karen Tendrup—22 years

Donna Ottaviano—16 years

Kyleen Norse—12 years

Alexis Kane—6 years

Heather Daigneault—5 years

Mary Baillargeon—2 years

Rena Pallo—2 years

Ann Porter-Brown—1 year

SOCIAL SERVICES

Anthony Andrea—2 years



Thank you to **Lori Jerome** and **Mary Cicirello**
for taking on the daunting task of COVID-19
testing and tracking for the VVH.

Dedication at its best.

THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
www.vvh.vermont.gov
Click on About Our Home
Click on Newsletters
 - ♦ Email
 - ♦ Mailing List (postal)
- To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Kiauna Wait
(802) 447-6510
Email: Kiauna.wait@vermont.gov

VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles
(4th Generation)



Newspaper Subscriptions
Bingo Prizes Crafts
Neck Pillows Stamps
CD Players I-Tune Cards
Body Pillows Costume Jewelry
Outdoor Benches
Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

Please make check for monetary donations out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

***Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201***

**Your donations are gratefully accepted.
THANK YOU**

Due to COVID-19, we are not able to accept: books, CDs, puzzles or used clothing. We will keep you posted when changes are made. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are donating:

Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members
Furniture, Haircuts, Clothing
Other personal needs

Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation
Supplies, Equipment

Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment
Large purchase

Activities Fund: Entertainment

Music & Memory Fund:

iPods, Headphones, iTunes cards

NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward
a paved walkway around
the perimeter of the VVH

THANK YOU!



The American Legion Riders Post #13 presented a check to VVH from the fundraiser ride they did recently.

There was also a 50/50 raffle draw and the winning gentleman, Ty Evans, decided to humbly donate his winnings back into the fundraiser. Paul Yerke, Nutritional Services Director at VVH, participated in the fundraiser ride as well!

Thank you to all who donated and participated.

*CHAPLAIN'S
CORNER*

Howdy Folks,

I am sitting at our breakfast table, looking out the window and suddenly notice that our maple trees have a certain hue to them. Then I realize they are beginning the late summer, early fall color; still green but showing a readiness to become yellow, orange and red. Ah, we all know what that means, autumn time. While it will be a beautiful time it also means cooler weather and too soon the coming of flurries.

All this is a little reminder of God's seasonal design. We in this area of the country are so fortunate to have such discernible Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter seasons. This year's rain has provided an abundance of flowers and greenery everywhere. Our lawn needed to be mowed every 3 or 4 days. My neighbor's gardens were popping with everything from sweet corn to peas and cucumbers, and of course lots of weeds.

Oh, we have a trumpet flower just outside our kitchen window, it's still blooming with bright orange trumpet-shaped flowers. The hummingbirds are going crazy as they fly inside the flowers to get the succulent juices. These birds are one of the many miracles of God and I sincerely hope all of you are able to see outside and appreciate God's creation, its color and activity.

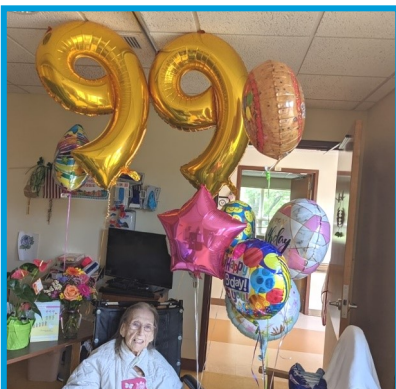
So, let's be thankful for our four seasons and enjoy each one to the fullest, and we should appreciate God's creation of "us" in His image.

Although we're still enduring some bumps and bruises regarding the pandemic I feel sure this thing will wear itself out soon; we must remain prayerful and patient and stick to the protocols.

Please pray for the folks in Afghanistan and all of our men and women serving around the globe.

Keep the faith!

God Bless, Chaplain Ken



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**Happy
Anniversary**

**Celebrating
a lifetime
in love**

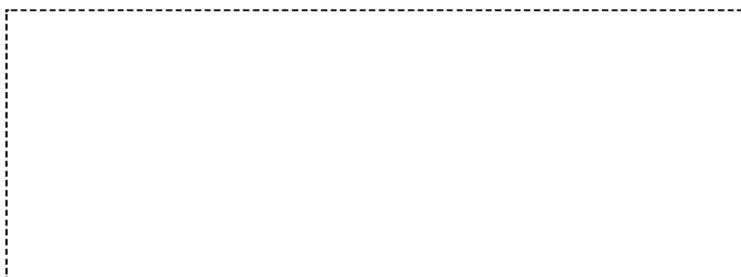
Out on a Summer's day—



**Taking in
the beauty
of Mother
Nature**



***"FULFILLING THE PROMISE: Caring for the
Veterans of Vermont and their families"***



Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

